



LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

February 26, 2013

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

Senate Bill 905 *"An Act Concerning Portal-to-Portal Workers' Compensation Coverage for Municipal and State Police and Fire Dispatchers"*

Senate Bill 907 *"An Act Concerning Additional Requirements for an Employer's Notice to Dispute Certain Care Deemed Reasonable for an Employee Under the Workers' Compensation Act"*

SB 905 would expand portal-to-portal workers' compensation coverage for public safety dispatchers under certain circumstances. CCM understands the intent of this proposal however, has concerns as it would impose a new unfunded state mandate which could result in unintended consequences such as, added costs on scarce local resources -- and a precedent for future state mandated expansions of workers' compensation benefits for other local personnel.

SB 907 would, among other things, prevent local officials from determining a discontinuance, reduction or denial of courses of treatment provided under workers' compensation -- unless submitted in writing to the Commissioner and related physician, and ultimately approved by the Commissioner. This proposal would place the burden of proof on cash-strapped towns and cities to justify scaling-down or completing treatment benefits.

Simply put -- **local officials are pleading state lawmakers to provide relief from state mandates, and not new ones as proposed in both SB 905 and SB 907.** Both proposals could place an unnecessary burden on local resources -- administrative and financial -- particularly at a time when municipal budgets are strained the most.

CCM urges the Committee to take no action SB 905 and SB 907.

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If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager of CCM
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